



## Noteworthy

**Vickie Luoma, Superintendent**

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Vickie".

**LakeVille Community Schools**

**January 2012**

Happy New Year! Our students returned to school rested, full of holiday cheer and ready to return to work. It is a joy to watch them on a daily basis as they learn and grow. Our seniors are busy presenting Senior Exit projects this week. Several of the students I watched make presentations commented on how valuable this project was as it required them to examine their past and future choices and the impact those choices have on their ability to reach their goals. It was wonderful to witness their understanding of this concept.

January is School Board Member Recognition Month. Our board members are exceptional people who tackle the enormous job of governing our school district. They demonstrate for our students the high character of civic duty and responsibility that all citizens should engage in. Evidence of their commitment is obvious in the operation of our district every day.

When deliberating important decisions about facilities, programs, personnel, curriculum, budgets, listening to staff, student or parent concerns, the number one priority for our Board is making sure their decisions positively impact student achievement and help us attain our Strategic Plan goal of providing a rigorous and relevant Pre K–12 program of study that promotes educational excellence, challenges and supports student learning and critical thinking, and prepares all students to effectively function in a global community.

Our Board recognition activities began at our January 10<sup>th</sup> board meeting with a very special gift. Our teachers donated autographed copies of the book *The Chronicles of My Youth* to our middle and high school libraries. The author, Patrick Ewell is a dual enrolled junior in our high school. This is the second book he has published. Please feel free to join our staff and students at our January 24 Board Meeting as they share their appreciation for our Board's service to our community.

I would like to take a moment to address an issue that was discussed by Mr. Jeff Wood, Board President and Mr. Bill Morgan, our auditor with the firm of Taylor and Morgan during our annual audit presentation November 22, 2011. As in past years, we received an unqualified audit (the highest rating possible) with no material weaknesses reported.

This fall as we were preparing for the audit, we discovered a variance between our projected versus actual fund balance. This discrepancy was caused by accounting errors during the 2010-2011 school year. This variance impacts our current budget as we had a lower fund balance than expected to carry forward. These errors are something we are not proud of and we have taken immediate action to put additional steps and procedures in place to ensure they do not recur and that our protocols going forward are even more thorough.

We have enacted several cost savings measures to rebuild our fund balance and will continue to do so as deemed appropriate and necessary by the Board of Education. Our focus is and will remain on providing a high quality educational experience for our students and we will move forward working with our students, staff and community to make sure that happens. Our auditor believes our response to this situation has been appropriate and proactive.

I want to take a moment to alert you to some upcoming events that we believe will be of great interest to parents.

On January 19, our kindergartners are making their first public performance as they host their winter music program at Otisville Elementary. There are two performances, one at 6:00 p.m. and one at 7:00 p.m. Please plan on joining us for this event.

SAVE THE DATE - We are privileged to host a community workshop on bullying on February 16, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Middle School with international presenter Barbara Coloroso. Ms. Coloroso is the bestselling author of the book *The Bully, the Bullied and the Bystander* and, for the past 30 years, an internationally recognized speaker and consultant on parenting, teaching, positive school climate, nonviolent conflict resolution, and grieving. She has appeared on Oprah, CBS's The Early Show, and she has been featured in The New York Times, Time, and U.S. News. This presentation as well as a staff workshop the following day are provided with Title IIA grant funds.

As most of you know, we have a bond election on February 28, 2012. The ballot will include two separate stand alone proposals. Due to our receipt of a Qualified Zone Academy Bond loan, the cost to taxpayers is significantly reduced in comparison to the May 2011 proposal. Details about the proposals including the cost to taxpayers are available on our website at [www.lakevilleschools.org](http://www.lakevilleschools.org).

Please feel free to contact my office if you have any questions about the items discussed in this newsletter.

Hail to the Black and Gold!